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47

REBEL MEDIUM TRANSPORT

Alliance workhorse

Rebel pilots' briefing

Logray, Ewok shaman

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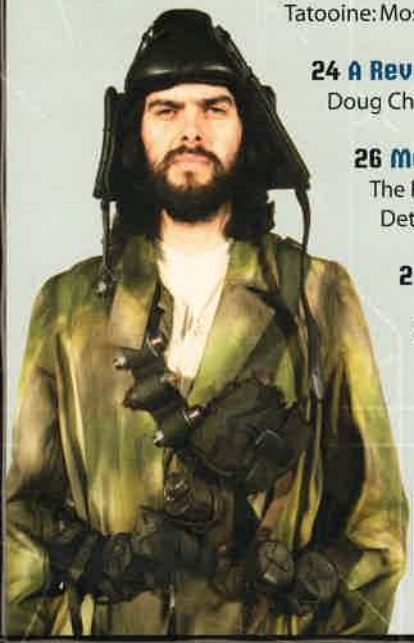

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STAR WARS

"GIVE THE EVACUATION CODE AND GET TO THE TRANSPORT!"

PRINCESS LEIA

Though indelibly associated with the Rebel Alliance, the Gallofree Yards Inc. GR-75 medium transport was a long-established workhorse of the galactic trade routes. Little more than a shell and some engines, the GR-75 was designed to carry cargo containers from port to port. In service to the Rebellion, it did much more.

GR-75 MEDIUM TRANSPORT

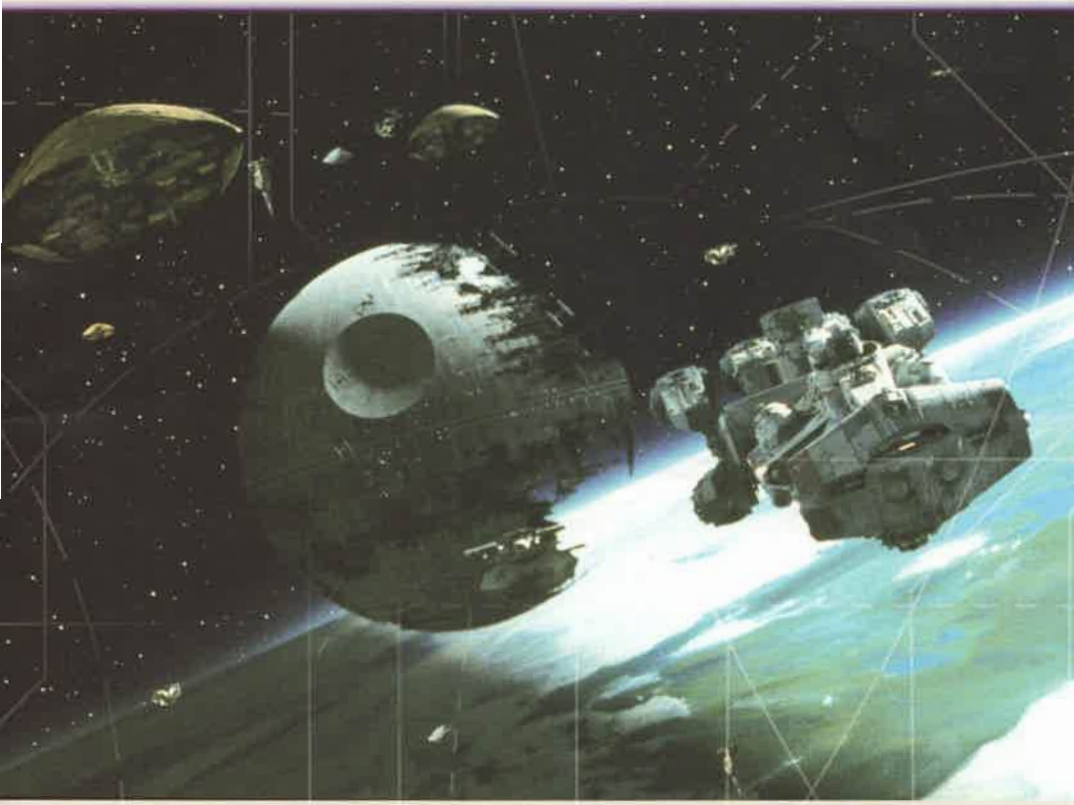
REBEL WORKHORSE

The Rebel Alliance regularly had to make do with what it could beg, borrow or steal. Very rarely, funds were available to purchase ships, though these were usually battered pieces of ageing scrap. However, the Alliance once found itself in a unique position of being offered a real bargain – a small fleet of GR-75 transports.

Gallofree Yards Inc. was a relatively small starship construction company that found itself sinking fast. The rise of the Empire had hit its business hard, not helped by the fact that the ships it produced had a reputation for being slow and unreliable. Three years before the Rebel victory at Yavin IV, commercial pressures finally took their toll and the company was declared insolvent and shut down. The Empire took no interest in the fate of Gallofree, nor its remaining stock of ships. As a result, Rebel sympathisers within the company were able to contact the Alliance and offer the entire stock of GR-75 medium transports to the service of the Rebellion. The Alliance snapped up the ships and very quickly the GR-75s became known as Rebel transports, so ubiquitous were they in Alliance operations.

Rough and Ready

The GR-75 medium transport was about as basic a ship as can be imagined. In essence, it was an empty shell of durasteel plating wrapped around a cargo storage area. The shell was made of three



sections – an upper surface and two smaller lower sections, one on each side. This meant that the cargo area was not fully enclosed, a configuration that allowed containers of all sizes and shapes, each with their own repulsorlifts, to be quickly loaded onto configurable racks. A magnetic shield maintained atmosphere around the cargo containers, and was switched on just prior to take-off. To protect the precious cargo further, the GR-75's shields were strongest around the open space, giving protection equivalent to the hull plating – amounting to not all that much, really. The slothful sublight and hyperspace engines were built into the upper section of plating, along with a terribly vulnerable command pod set on a stalk at the rear of the ship. The six crew members lived and worked in very cramped conditions, as did the 40 passengers in the Spartan berths included in the basic model.

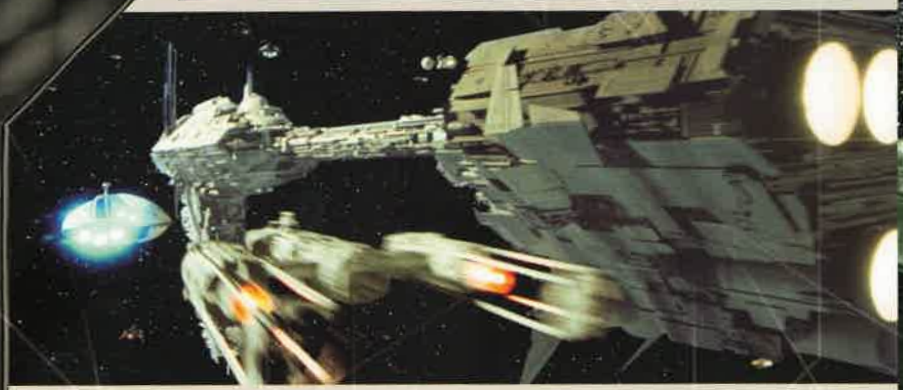
Fighting Potential

The GR-75 was, technically, a military vessel. It was armed with four retractable, fire-linked twin laser cannon turrets for defence, making it illegal for use by civilian companies or individuals according to Imperial law. However, the weak weapons and poor shielding meant that no military groups save the Alliance were interested in the GR-75s. There was a civilian equivalent, the GR-45, identical save for the lack of weapons.

REBEL TRANSPORTS

BEYOND THE BASIC

The addition to the Rebel fleet of a large number of GR-75 medium transports was something of a relief, as the Alliance was always short of ships. The transports' repair costs were draining, but the hardy ships offered advantages too.



The GR-75 and GR-45 were never intended for combat roles. The GR-75's cannon were purely defensive, and underpowered even for that. Equally, the transports were never really designed to carry large numbers of personnel. Most owners turned the inadequate 40-passenger berths into additional cargo space. The Rebel Alliance, however, used its medium transports for a number of different roles. The majority remained simply as transports, carrying anything and everything the Rebellion needed. The anonymity afforded by the unremarkable ships was of enormous benefit, at least until the Imperials began to closely associate the ships with Rebel activity.

The shining moment of service for the Rebel medium transports was at the Battle of Hoth. There, they ran the Imperial blockade to evacuate Alliance personnel.

Hard-Working

GR-75s moved personnel, equipment and even smaller ships and vehicles, usually in convoy and with a starfighter escort. Larger or more important convoys received a frigate escort where possible. A few transports were even converted into carriers, transporting their own starfighter escorts, or surreptitiously moving covert attack groups past enemy checkpoints. Rebel technicians also took GR-75s and turned them into fuel ships. These would float silently in deep space, usually waiting to refuel craft coming into the system or sector on their own mission. At least one medium transport, flying with the main Rebel fleet, was fitted with a large energy cannon as an unpleasant surprise for attacking Imperials. The Alliance sometimes had to rely on desperate tactics. Both at Endor and, a short time before, at the attack on the Fondor shipyards, the Alliance used GR-75s as 'suicide ships', ramming the unmanned vessels into enemy ships or installations. At Endor, these ships were packed with explosives for additional damage.

THE REBEL ALLIANCE

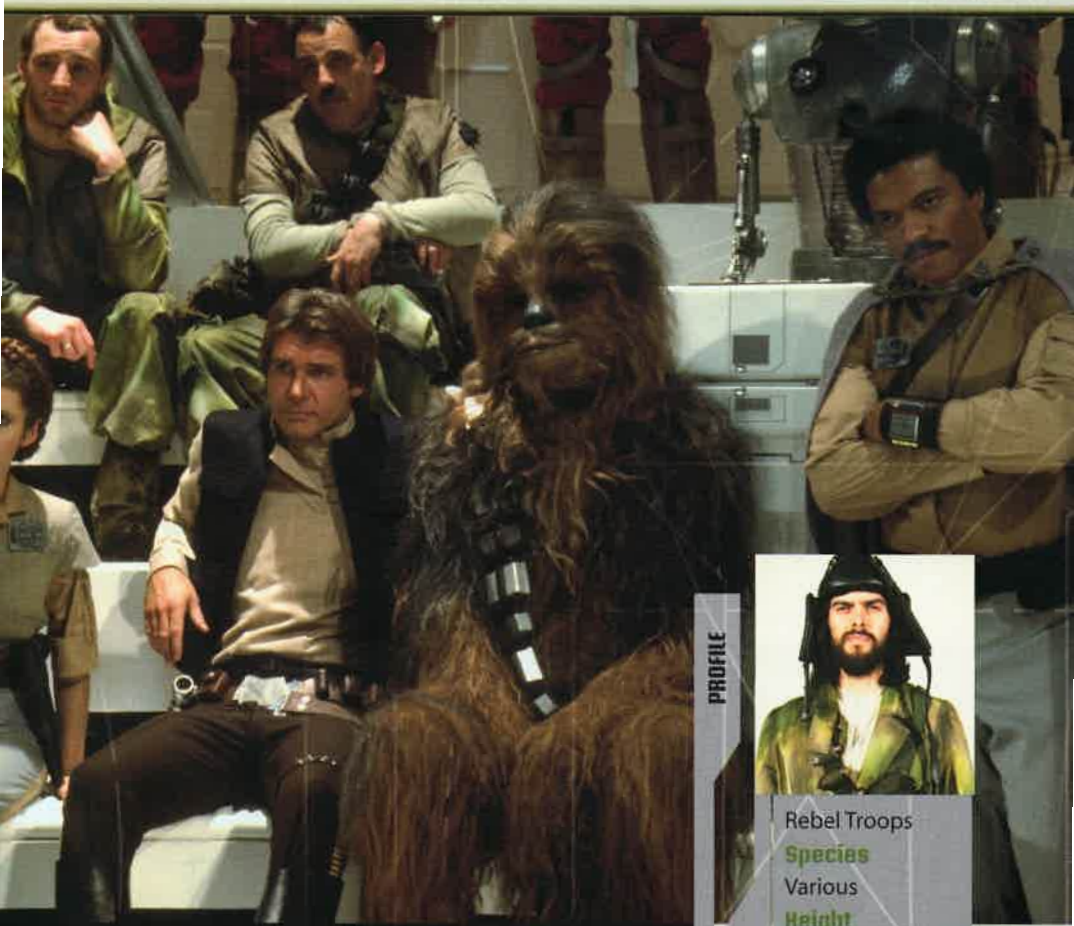
FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

As the Clone Wars raged across the galaxy, on Coruscant a different battle was being fought. Though this struggle claimed fewer casualties, the fighting was no less intense, and the prize for the victor was the same. From this quiet conflict arose the Rebel Alliance.

The distracting war fought between the Confederacy of Independent Systems and the Galactic Republic had been in part to provide Supreme Chancellor Palpatine with a legitimate excuse while he gathered as much power and control as he could to himself. Initially, this was almost fully supported in the Senate, such was Palpatine's political skill. However, in the closing months of the war, Palpatine was opposed by enough Senators that they formed the Delegation of 2000. Even as they sought to move against the Supreme Chancellor, Palpatine's plans entered their end game. The Jedi were all but destroyed, the Clone Wars ended, and Empire declared. The Republic's clone troops, already in place across the galaxy, suddenly became stormtroopers for the Empire. In the Senate, Emperor Palpatine seemed untouchable.

Start of the Rebellion

A number of the Senators from the Delegation of 2000 began to plot a rebellion. These included Bail Organa of Alderaan, Mon Mothma of Chandrila, and Garm Bel Iblis of Corellia. Elsewhere, small groups and sometimes even whole systems began to fight back against the Empire. Few succeeded, some simply survived, most were utterly eradicated. Years passed, and Imperial atrocities became more open and more frequent as Palpatine's forces consolidated their power. The Rebel groups were disorganised and divided, justifiably suspicious of outsiders as Palpatine's



PROFILE

Rebel Troops

Species
Various

Height
Varied

Affiliation
Rebel Alliance, Freedom

The rebellion against the Emperor began even before the birth of the Empire.

agents hunted them down. Bail Organa, Garm Bel Iblis and Mon Mothma continued to meet, but even they lacked the power to act, particularly as Mothma had been forced into hiding for her outspoken views. The rebellion needed leadership and inspiration.

Sith Apprentice Galen Marek

The opportunity that Bail Organa, Garm Bel Iblis and Mon Mothma had been looking for came from an unusual error in the Emperor's plans. Palpatine was aware, of course, that there was opposition to his rule. He sought to bring the most dangerous leaders together in one place and eliminate them very publicly. Such an action would intimidate other potential rebels, he thought. To further this plan, Palpatine and Darth Vader sought to use Vader's apprentice, Galen Marek. Vader tricked Marek into believing that he was working to overthrow Palpatine. The ruse would be the formation of an organised rebellion. Malek brought together the three main resistance leaders, each of whom had been working independently, having become too suspicious to ally with the others openly. The resistance leaders met on Corellia and, driven by the

Did You Know...?

The Rebellion has its origin in the opening crawl text of the 1975 second draft of *Star Wars*. It spoke of the tragic "Holy Rebellion of '06" during which the Jedi Bendu of Ashla were rendered "all but extinct". The Empire rose to replace them, protected by "the Black Knights of the Sith". A Rebel Alliance answered this tyranny, led by a near-mythical warrior called The Starkiller.

charismatic Malek, signed the Corellian Treaty that created the Alliance to Restore the Republic. Unfortunately for them, Darth Vader chose that moment to attack, capturing all the Rebel leaders. Marek later rescued them seemingly at the cost of his own life, but his inspiration was such that a little later, on Kashyyyk, the Marek family crest was chosen as the symbol of the Alliance at the suggestion of Princess Leia Organa. Later, a formal and open Declaration of Rebellion was made. The Emperor no longer ruled unopposed.

Alliance of Hope

Palpatine's original plan had been both to create and control the armed rebellion, using it to expose and capture his opponents and, much like the Clone Wars, justify his control through a continuing state of emergency. However, with the Rebel Alliance now outside his control, it began to score significant victories and draw in important allies. The Emperor unleashed the Death Star, only to see the destruction of Alderaan and then of the station itself create even greater support for the Rebellion. More concerning to Palpatine was that Darth Vader's own son, Luke Skywalker, was part of the Alliance. Palpatine formulated a plan to draw Luke to the dark side to replace Vader, and at the same time destroy the Alliance. At the Battle of Endor, the Emperor's plans fell apart and he was destroyed. One month later, the Rebellion was over and the New Republic declared.

THE UTAPAUAN *ROGUE*-CLASS PORAX-38 STARFIGHTER

SPOILS OF WAR

Though the Confederacy of Independent Systems did not invade Utapau until the last year of the Clone Wars, it had purchased a number of P-38 starfighters from the Utapuan shipwrights Buuper Torsckil Abbey Devices.

If the intention had been to study the craft to ascertain their threat level, the CIS was clearly impressed. General Grievous, the Separatist cyborg leader of the droid forces, gave a number of the fighters to his bodyguards – the fearsome IG-100 MagnaGuards. A P-38 was given to the Duros bounty hunter Cad Bane by the CIS as part payment for services rendered. He modified it and named the ship the *Xanadu Blood*. There was certainly much to be admired about the Porax-38 starfighter.

Utapauan Defence

The P-38 was a single-pilot starfighter, with a class 2.0 hyperdrive, a high-capacity shield system and hypermatter annihilation reactors in each wing. The powerful engines and multi-vent thrusters made the P-38 fast and manoeuvrable, while its long-distance sensor systems and jamming equipment detected and isolated opponents very quickly. These tough fighters proved very effective against droid starfighters as, once cut off from their control ships, the droid pilots were no match for the Utapauan fighters' two high-power laser cannon.

The navigational computer aboard the Porax-38 was originally very small, but was clearly upgraded on General Grievous' orders for the ships given to his MagnaGuards. They were able to jump in and ambush Anakin Skywalker over Tatooine during the Clone Wars when he tried to return the Huttlet Rotta to his father, Jabba the Hutt.

Porax-38 PROFILE

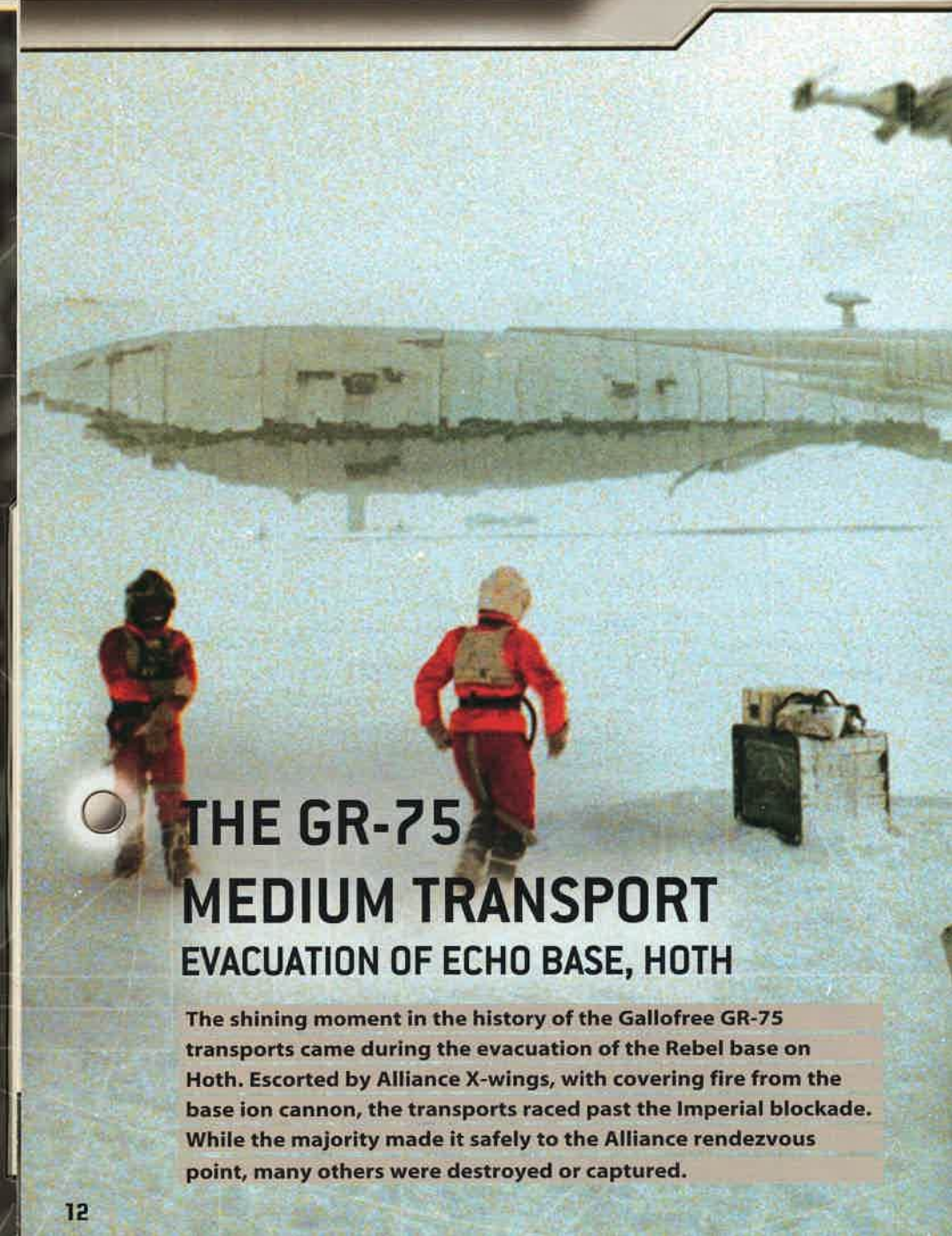
Type
Starfighter

Manufacturer
Buuper Torsckil Abbey Devices

Size
12.7m long, 12.88m wide, 2.71m high

Weapons
2 x laser cannon

Affiliation
Utapau Skyforce



THE GR-75 MEDIUM TRANSPORT

EVACUATION OF ECHO BASE, HOTH

The shining moment in the history of the Gallofree GR-75 transports came during the evacuation of the Rebel base on Hoth. Escorted by Alliance X-wings, with covering fire from the base ion cannon, the transports raced past the Imperial blockade. While the majority made it safely to the Alliance rendezvous point, many others were destroyed or captured.

REBEL TRANSPORT

Type
GR-75 medium transport

Manufacturer
Gallofree Yards Inc.

Length
900 metres

Maximum Speed
650km/h (in atmosphere)

Maximum Acceleration
900G (in space)

Hyperdrive Rating
Class 4.0

Weapons
4 x twin fire-linked laser cannon turrets (retractable)

Crew
6 x crew, 1 x gunner (optional)

Passengers
40 (factory standard)

Cargo Capacity
90,000 tonnes

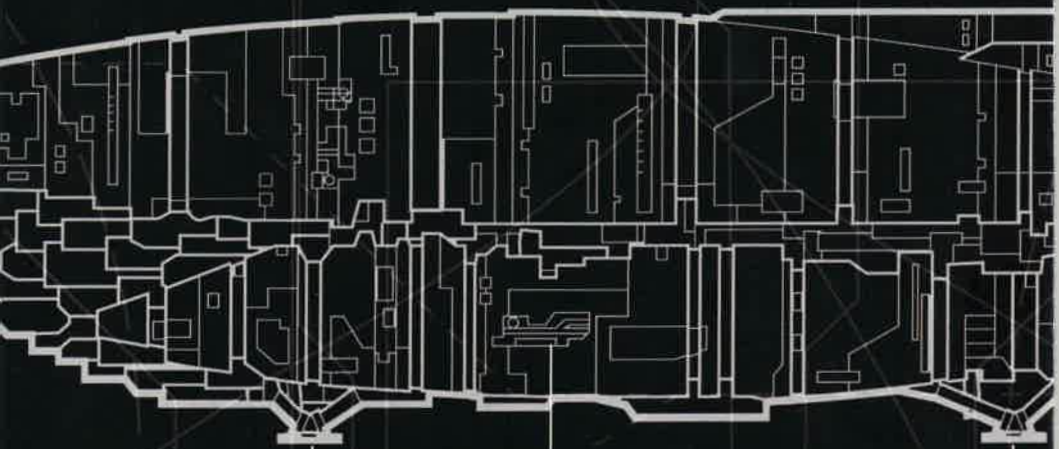
Affiliation
Rebel Alliance

Desperate escape

During the Battle of Hoth, the GR-75 transport *Quantum Storm* was the first Alliance ship to make it past the Imperial blockade. The Star Destroyer *Tyrant* had moved to intercept it, but was disabled by Echo Base's ion cannon. *Quantum Storm* was carrying non-combat personnel. The *Bright Hope* was the last transport to leave the base. With the ion cannon disabled, it was nearly destroyed by Darth Vader's own Super Star Destroyer *Executor* and the *Mist Hunter*, the ship belonging to bounty hunters Zuckuss and 4-LOM.

d hull

After Gallofree Yards went bankrupt in 3 BBY, most of the company's remaining stock of ships found their way into the Alliance fleet.



lar
pods

Landing gear

Long-range
sensors

La

Deflector shield generator

Command pod

Main reactor

Landing gear

Primary drive engines

LOGRAY

LURE OF THE DARK SIDE

An Ewok hero, a great warrior in his youth, Logray's Force-sensitivity made him a powerful shaman and leader in the Bright Tree village community. Unfortunately, as he aged, the lure of the dark side proved too strong for Logray.

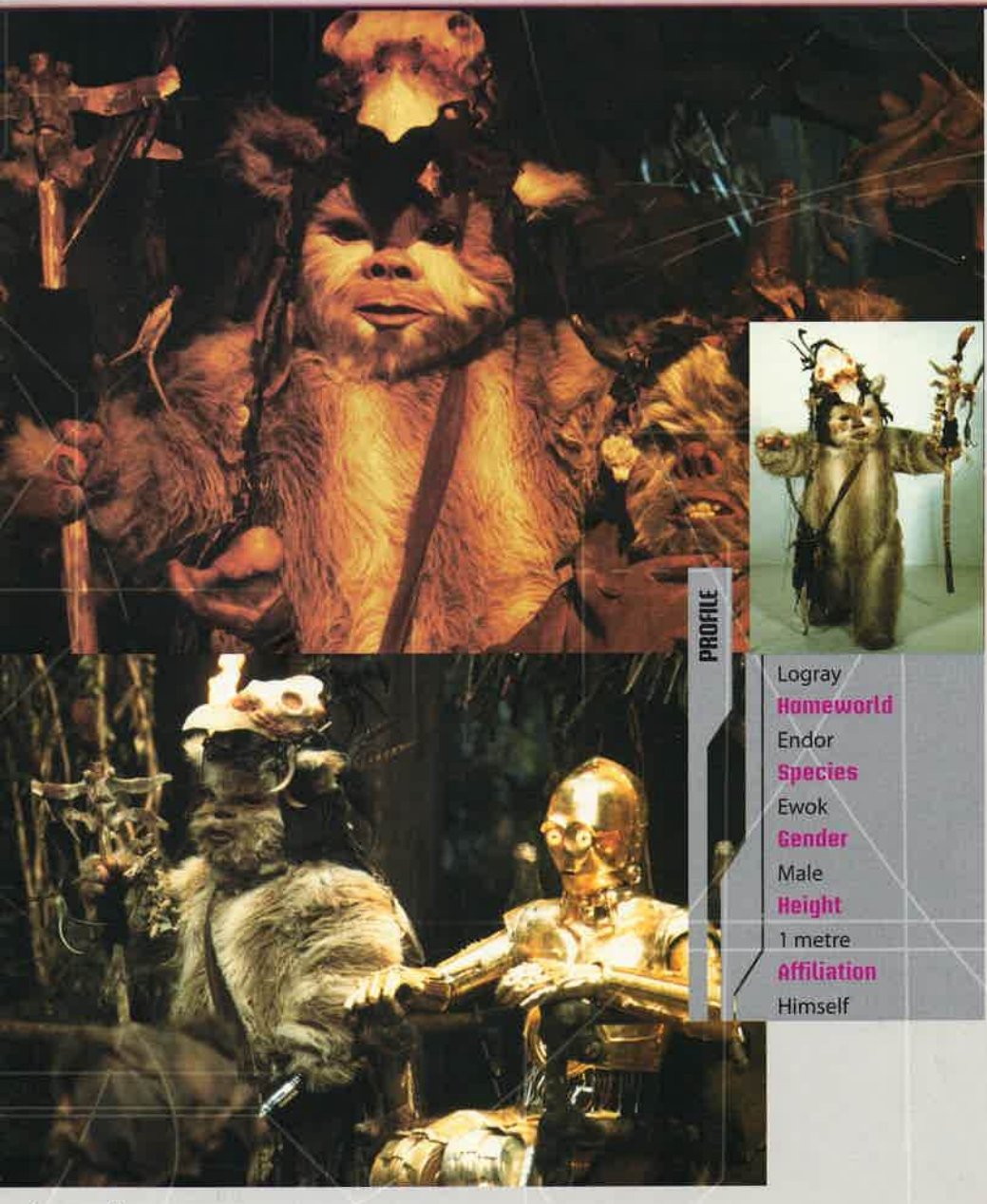
As a young warrior, Logray was captured and enslaved by Morag, the Tulgah sorceress. A bitter enemy of the Bright Tree Ewoks, she had stolen the Sunstar-Shadowstone. While captive, Logray broke the stone and, taking the Sunstar, escaped. During his time serving Morag, he had closely studied the magic she performed. On returning to the village, Logray began to practise his own magic. In time, he became the village shaman, little suspecting that his power was that of the Force. Much later, and at the height of his powers, he battled to the death with Morag and gained both halves of the Sunstar-Shadowstone, thereafter simply called the Sunstar.

Dark Magic

After many, many years of protecting the village and advising Chief Chirpa, Logray began to take more control for himself. As Chirpa slipped into senility, Logray began to dominate. He began subtly practising dark magic, until it consumed him. He was caught practising dark blood rituals by Wicket, but when Wicket spoke out against Logray it was the young Ewok who was barred from participating in village rituals. Logray used the arrival of the Empire and the fear it created to cement his position and excuse his dark magic.

Logray's Fall

Such was Logray's power that, when Han, Chewbacca and Luke were captured, he ordered the sacrifice of the Rebels rather than see them accepted as Leia had been. Luke's use of the Force through C-3PO saw a resentful Logray overruled. It was Chirpa who pushed to have the Rebels accepted into the tribe, and for the Ewoks to take part in freeing their world. Logray's bullying and cowardice were exposed at the Battle of Endor, and Chirpa was finally able to banish him from the village and from village records. Officially, he never existed.



PROFILE

Logray

Homeworld

Endor

Species

Ewok

Gender

Male

Height

1 metre

Affiliation

Himself

Apprentice

It was traditional for the shaman of Bright Tree to take an apprentice. Logray's first choice, Zarrak, was eventually banished for trying to steal the Sunstar and for openly practising dark magic. Wicket tried, but it was Teebo who became Logray's apprentice. When Zarrak tried to tempt Teebo away and destroy him, Teebo was forced to kill him.

TATOOINE

MOS ESPA SLAVE QUARTERS

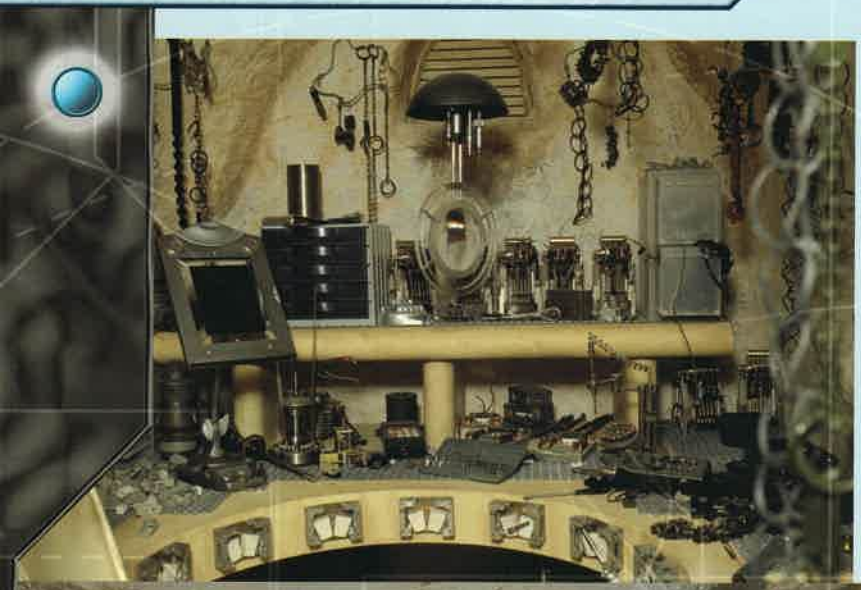
For a long time, Mos Espa was the largest city on Tatooine. A sprawling mess of buildings, docking bays, winding streets and alleys, it began as a small mining colony before being taken over and 'redeveloped' by the Hutt gangsters.

Mining on Tatooine failed every time thanks to the unique geology of the once-orbitally bombarded planet. When the Mos Espa experiment failed, the Hutts moved in to take over a dying settlement. Their influence drew the scum of the galaxy to a safe world where the authorities were easily paid to turn a blind eye, if they weren't already actively involved in the Hutts' business dealings. Mos Espa quickly and organically expanded into a baffling, nonsensical maze of buildings. Construction safety regulations were not simply ignored – they were taken out back, shot, chopped up and then fed to the massiffs. Collapsed buildings were rebuilt or shored up, adding to the complexity of the streets.

LEFTOVERS

Eventually, only those who lived in Mos Espa could ever find their way around, and visitors were easy to spot and easier to deal with. One remainder left over from the days of the former mining colony actually sat on the outskirts of Mos Espa. Abandoned by later settlers, the original temporary homes for the miners who began the settlement were taken over by the Hutts and their business partners as quarters for their many slaves. The buildings had been constructed quickly to provide shelter from the heat and the sandstorms. Often extending up to three squat stories high, the accommodation was cramped, uncomfortable, cave-like and quickly left behind by their builders. This made the buildings perfect for the slave owners. They had them patched up, vaguely, and fitted with the

Anakin was able to build his Podracer behind his home, knowing Watto would never visit.



Shmi Skywalker's neatly organised workstation contrasted with the clutter of her son's room.

At Home with the Skywalkers

While Mos Espa was built on location in Tunisia, the interiors of the Skywalker home were the first sets built at Leavesden studios in England.

bare essentials to make life livable; then far too many slaves were moved in. The Slave Quarters Row, as it was openly called, was pointedly ignored by the authorities. The fact that slaves were kept there by Jabba and Gardulla the Hutt, not to mention leading local business beings such as the junk dealer Watto, had a lot to do with that.

Cramped and Crowded

Most of the hovels consisted of a central kitchen and eating area on the lower floor, with various cramped accommodation leading off and up. Outdated bio-converters turned liquid sewage from sentients and animals into natchgas to fuel the generators that provided for the hovels' very modest power needs. Despite their tumbledown appearance, the accommodation was sufficient to shelter the denizens from the sand and gravel storms that swept off the Dune Sea – so long as the dwellings didn't fall down under the battering winds.

Young Jedi

The young Anakin Skywalker and his mother, Shmi, were slaves belonging to Watto, the Toydarian junk dealer. They lived in a basic but clean home that was actually three much smaller hovels combined. Mother and son were the only residents simply because Watto could not afford any other slaves, and the threat of eventually having to share their home was one Watto regularly exploited. Like many slaves, the house-proud Shmi Skywalker did her best to keep the place in order, and she and Anakin fitted it out with devices the boy scavenged and repaired. Shmi even had a small workstation where she cleaned computer memory devices to earn some extra money.

DOUG CHIANG
CONCEPT AND DESIGN

Doug Chiang began as an animator before going on to direct television commercials. From this award-winning job, he moved first to Industrial Light & Magic before taking major roles in the production of *The Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones*.

In 1968, six years after Doug Chiang was born on the 16 February 1962, his family emigrated to the USA from Taiwan. Throughout the 1970s, while at Junior High School and beyond, Chiang was making films in the family's basement. In 1976, his four-minute film *Gladiator* won Grand Prize in the Michigan Student Film Festival, and a later 10-minute sci-fi short, modelled after *Star Wars*, won him first place in the same festival. After graduating in 1981, Chiang studied industrial design in Detroit before moving to California and attending the University of California at Los Angeles. In 1986, while working for the Digital Productions company, Chiang designed and directed the opening logo for the premier of the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. He went on to become a stop-motion animator on the second season of *Pee Wee's Playhouse* in 1987, and later joined Universal Pictures as a concept designer for *Back to the Future Part 2*.

Star Wars Calls

In 1989, Doug Chiang became Visual Effects Director at Industrial Light & Magic, and in 1993 won an Academy Award and a BAFTA for his work on the dark comedy *Death Becomes Her*. That same year, Chiang became Creative Director at ILM. In 1995, he left ILM to become Design Director on Episode 1: *The Phantom Menace* – the same year that he won a BAFTA for his earlier work on *Forrest Gump*.

All His Own Work

An accomplished painter, Doug Chiang's work has been exhibited all across the United States – including the Brooklyn Museum, the Houston and San Diego Museums of Fine Art, and the Field Museum in Chicago – and in Kyoto and Tokyo in Japan.

With Episode I completed, from 1999, Doug went on to become Concept Design Supervisor for Episode II: *Attack of the Clones*.

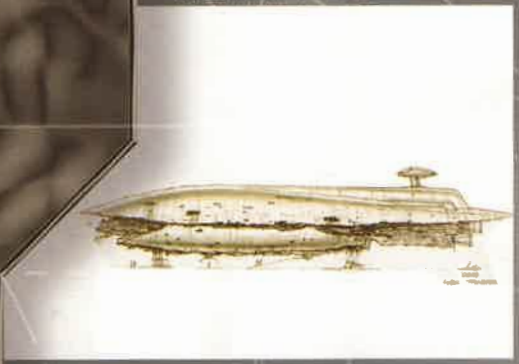
DC Studio and Beyond

In 2000, Doug opened his own studio called simply Doug Chiang Studio. In 2002, he was Production Designer on *Polar Express* for Robert Zemeckis, and on the 2007 film *Beowulf*, also for Zemeckis. In 2004, Doug brought together 18 artists to form Ice Blink Studios, dedicated to entertainment design for films and new media.

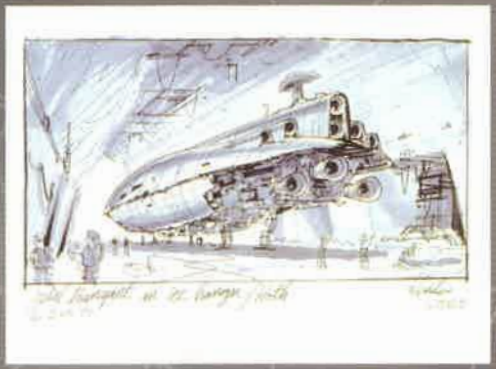
THE REBEL TRANSPORT

DETAILING THE GR-75

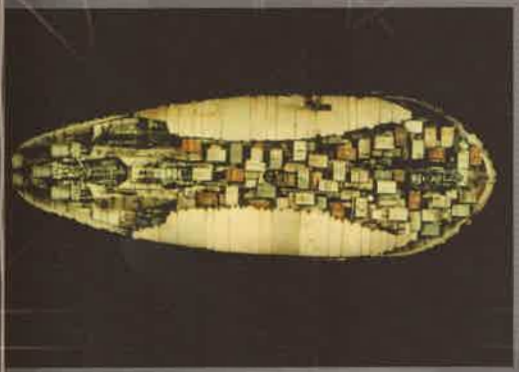
CREATING THE REBEL MEDIUM TRANSPORT



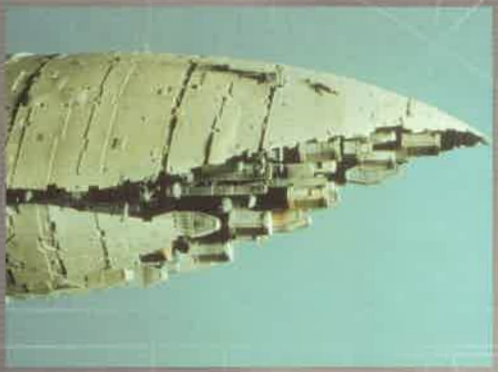
1 The final concept design sketch for the Rebel transport on which the CGI modelling was based.



2 A storyboard from 1979 showing the transport in the Rebel base on Hoth.



5 The underside of the model, clearly showing the cargo modules carried by the GR-75 transport.



6 A detailed shot of the right-side front of the model with the cargo modules visible.

For the Special Edition of *Star Wars:* Episode IV *A New Hope*, a tan-coloured ship was shown docked at Mos Eisley space port. This was identified later as a civilian GR-45 model, and its addition meant that the Gallofree medium transport appears in all of the original trilogy.

3 Left-side front view of the transport. This version omits the command pod at the rear.

4 Right-side rear view, showing the command pod projecting from the ship's dorsal spine.

7 Right-side front view, demonstrating the ship's streamlined, shark-like shape.

8 Left-side rear view showing the effect of the engines powered up.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 What was the name of the last transport to escape Hoth?

2 Logray wore the skull of which bird on his headdress?

3 Which founder of the Rebel Alliance died when Alderaan was destroyed?

ANSWERS:

1. The *Bright Hope* was the last transport to leave Hoth. Despite being escorted by six X-wings, it didn't make it past the Imperial blockade.

2. Logray wore the skull of a large, predatory churi bird. Teebo wore churi feathers on his headdress.

3. Bail Prestor Organa, Leia's adopted father, died when the Death Star destroyed Alderaan.

R

RIC-920

Droid
Episode II

Manufactured by Serv-O-Droid, RIC-920 was a general purpose labour droid from the popular RIC-series. The basic but cheap RIS-series were so successful that they remained unchanged for hundreds of years and could be found performing simple, menial tasks all across the galaxy. RIC-920 worked in Mos Espa pulling a rickshaw. His most famous customers were Jedi Anakin Skywalker and Senator Padmé Amidala.

Rieekan, General Carlist

Character
Episode V

Though born on Alderaan, Carlist Rieekan grew up with the belief that there were times when one had to fight to preserve justice and democracy. As a result, he fought with the Judicial Forces of the Republic during the Clone Wars. When the Empire was declared, Rieekan resigned and returned to Alderaan. He immediately became involved in the resistance movement – effectively as one of the first officers in the Rebel Alliance. Part of his duties included maintaining a network of communications satellites that kept nearby star systems in touch with the leadership on Alderaan. Rieekan was inspecting a transmission station on nearby Delaya linked to this network when the Death Star destroyed his homeworld. Throwing himself even more intensely into his work with the Alliance, Rieekan was given command of Echo Base Hoth. He was responsible for designing the delaying strategies that enabled so many there to escape when the Empire located the base. He served the Rebel Alliance with skill and courage beyond the Battle of Endor, and was an integral part of the New Republic military administration right through to the war against the Yuuzhan Vong.

Ronto

Creature
Episode I, IV

Standing an average 5m tall, the four-legged ronto was a mammalian beast of burden native to Tatooine. Easily domesticated, they were able to carry or tow great weights. Easily startled, these powerful creatures were hard to control. Despite this, they were popular with Jawas as a desert mount, as their size often frightened off Tusken Raiders.

Ryyder, Horox

Character
Episode I, III

Ryyder was an Anx, and Senator for the Raioballo sector for over 50 years. He was a great supporter of Supreme Chancellor Finis Valorum, despite overwhelming opposition to Valorum in the Senate. A tireless campaigner against corruption, Horox Ryyder worked with the likes of Bail Antilles and the Wookiee Senator Yarua to root out dishonesty in government. Amidst much publicity, Ryyder retired from office 22 years before the Battle of Yavin. His honesty and dedication were much missed by his allies.

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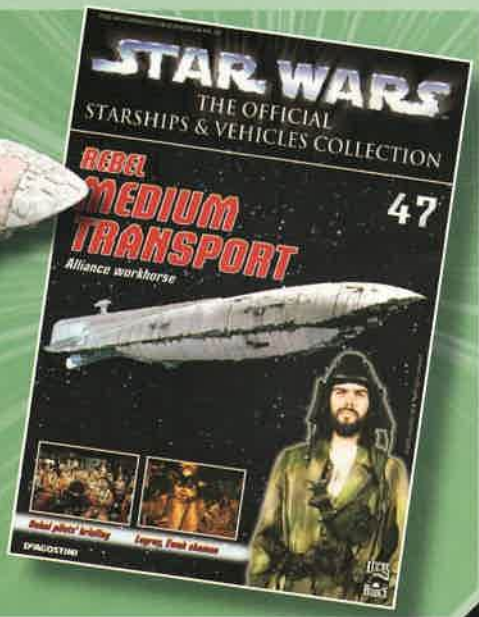

WITH ISSUE 47: REBEL MEDIUM TRANSPORT

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